

SCHAUMBURG, IL - Yesterday Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08), who in her first term distinguished herself as one of the House's foremost leaders in the fight against identity theft, participated in an identity theft forum hosted by the Palatine Township for its residents. In addition to Bean, a representative from Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis's office also shared tips and information on identity theft.

"Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the nation – especially in the suburbs," Bean said, "Social security, bank account, and credit card numbers aren't just data. In the wrong hands they can wipe out someone's life savings, wreck their credit and cause financial ruin."

In the last Congress, Bean introduced the Financial Data Protection Act of 2005 which amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to strengthen its data security safeguards. The Financial Data Protection Act required all "consumer reporters" or those consumer reporting agencies and financial institutions that regularly handle consumer financial information, to notify consumers if responsible for a potential identity theft or fraud risk. Additionally, consumer reporters would be required to implement increased protections against all forms of financial fraud and ensure a higher level of data security. In this Congress, Bean is working with her colleagues to reintroduce data security legislation that will protect Eighth District families from the threat of identity theft.

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